



New automation capability of the NDACC/TOLNet tropospheric ozone lidar at JPL - Table Mountain Facility

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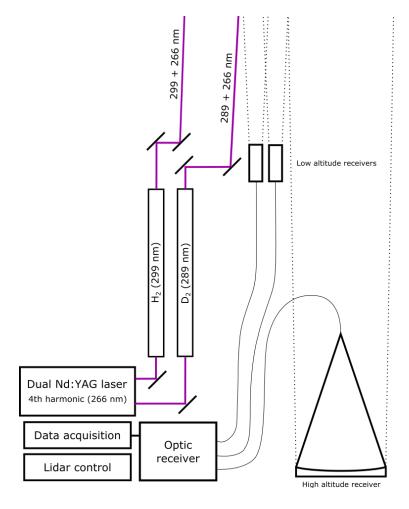
TMF Tropospheric ozone lidar



Highlights

- Original design intended for NDACC operation, with start date of 1999
- Measurement schedule: typically 3-4 times per week, 2 hours per night, total 3000 profiles since 1999
- More recent developments (since 2013) for 'TOLNet', with added daytime measurements
- Validation took place August 2016 (SCOOP Campaign)

System setup (before update)



McDermid, I. S., Beyerle, G., Haner, D. A., and Leblanc, T.: Redesign and improved performance of the tropospheric ozone lidar at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Table Mountain Facility, Appl. Opt., 41, 7550-7555, 2002.



Lidar automation: Hardware

Design criteria / Required features

- Modular approach for easy tests and modifications.
- Hardware interlocking for the lidar hatch in case of rain.
- Easy replaceable control PC (i.e. no special interface or acquisition cards installed on the PC).
- Ability to reset every component remotely.

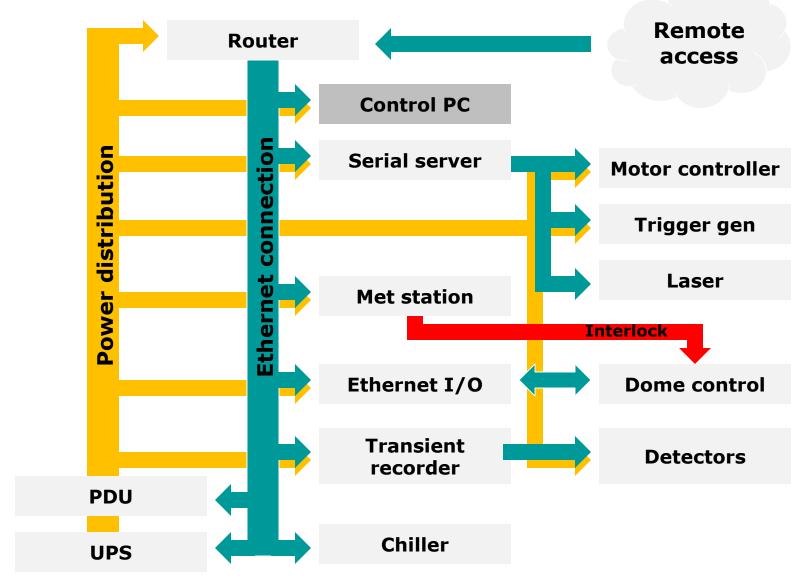
Key implementation features

- Ethernet as the preferred technology for communication with the different peripherals
- Power distribution based on Ethernet controlled power distributions units (PDUs).



Lidar automation: Hardware







Lidar automation: Acquisition software

Design criteria / Required features

- Modular approach for easy tests and modifications.
- Portable to other lidar systems at TMF.
- HDF5 data storage (1 minute time resolution).
- Easy remote access.
- Email report on acquisition start and end.
- Detailed system status logging

Implementation

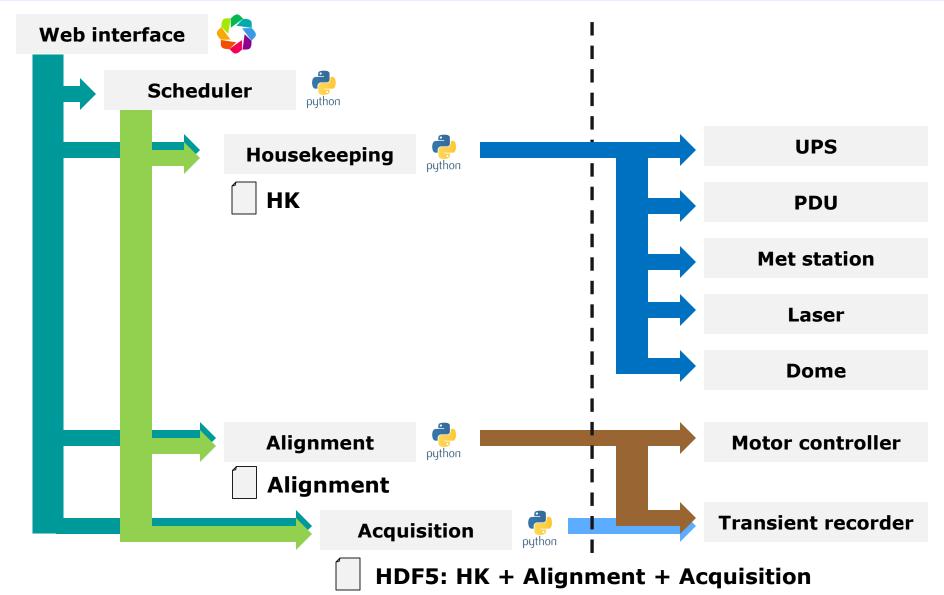
- Python + Bokeh (interactive visualization library).
- Free and open source software.
- Code divided in five modules (scheduler, housekeeping, alignment, acquisition, and web interface). Connection between modules is implemented with sockets.
- Interface running on a web browser.



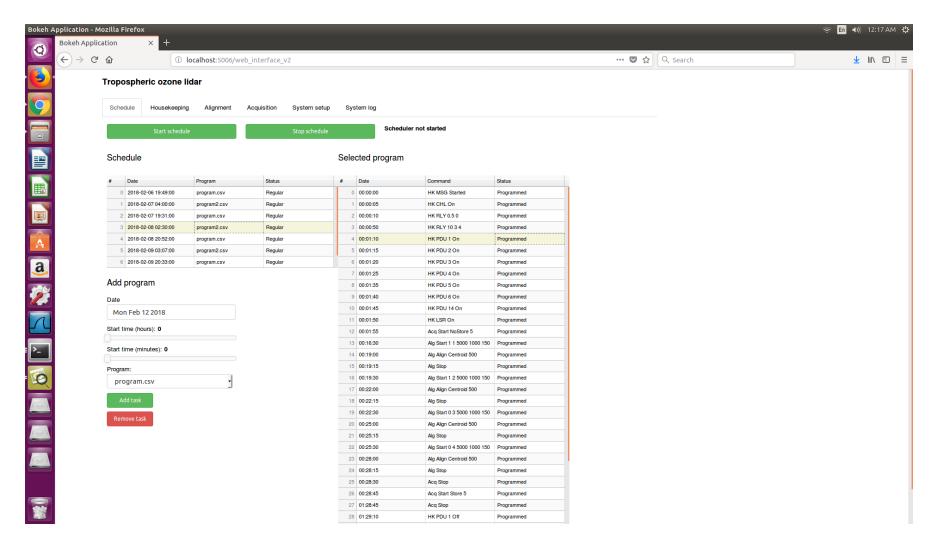






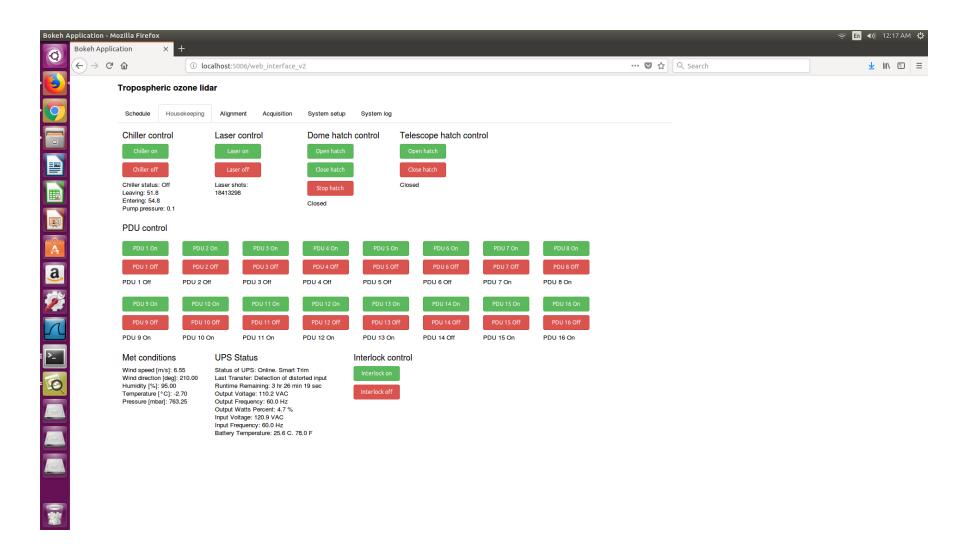




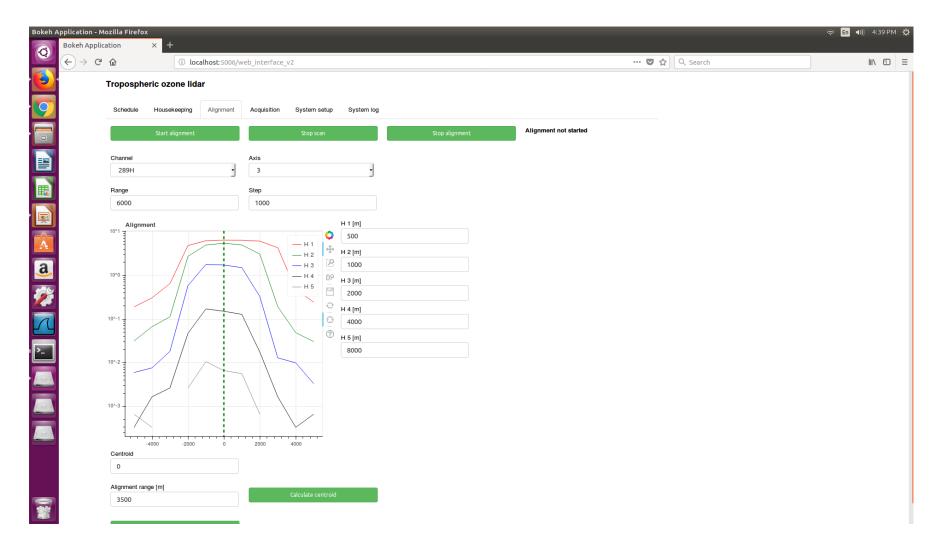


















Very-near-range receiver: Setup

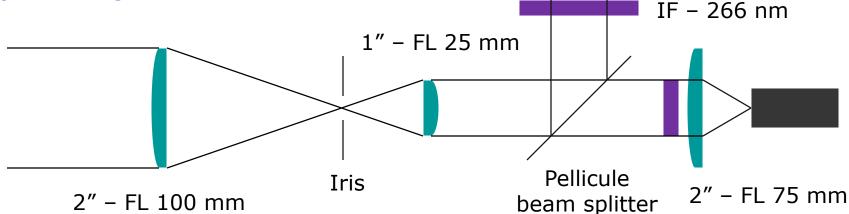
2" - FL 75 mm

IF - 289 nm

50:50

- Design criteria / Required features
 - Range: 100 1000 m
 - Signal dynamic range: 3 orders of magnitude (assuming no extinction, only r**2 dependency)
 - Originally Raman channels were planned, but the available power is not enough. Around 10 times more power @ 266 nm is needed.
 - Alternative: 266 nm / 289 nm wavelength pair
 - Available power @ 266 nm: 10 20 mW
 - Available power @ 289 nm: 200 300 mW

Proposed design:

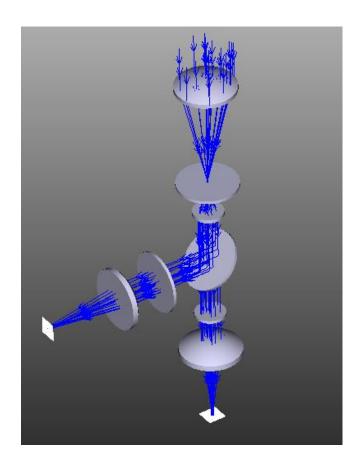


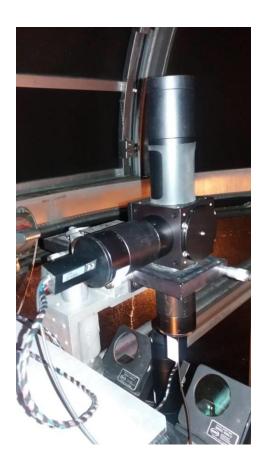


Very-near-range receiver: Setup



- ZEMAX Simulation / Construction
 - General evaluation of the setup (overlap, AOI on interference filters)
 - Analysis of detector surface sensitivity for very near measurements (below 100 m)



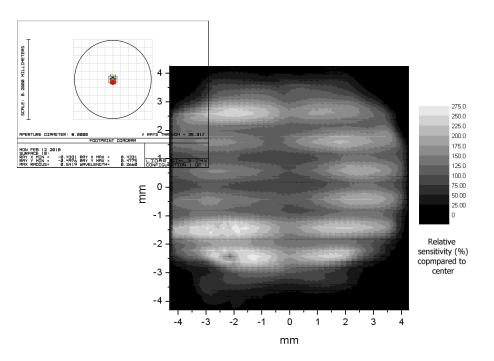




Very-near-range receiver: Setup



PMT Surface



Based on 10 cm separation between receiver and transmitter

Blue -> Inf, 0 mm

Green -> 100 m, 0.15 mm

Red -> 50 m, 0.3 mm -> up to **25% more signal!**

V. Simeonov et al., Influence of the Photomultiplier Tube Spatial Uniformity on Lidar Signals, Appl. Opt. 38, 5186-5190 August 1999.

Freudenthaler, V., 2004: Effects of spatially inhomogeneous photomultiplier sensitivity on lidar signals and remedies, Proc. 22. ILRC, Matera, Italy, ESA SP-561, 37-40.

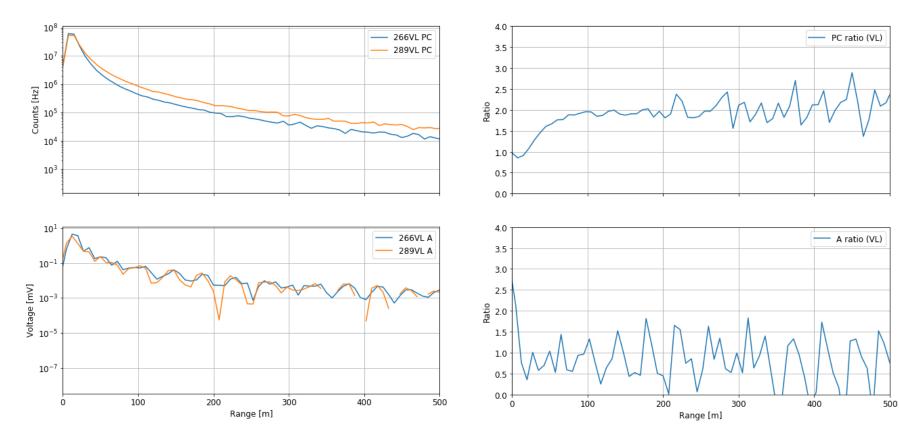


Very-near-range receiver: Tests



Estimation of the differential overlap/gain factor [G]

- Measurement of the differential overlap function/PMT sensitivity between the two receiver arms using two 289 nm IF filters.
- OD3 was added in front of the receiver to avoid saturation effects on the signals in the range of interest.

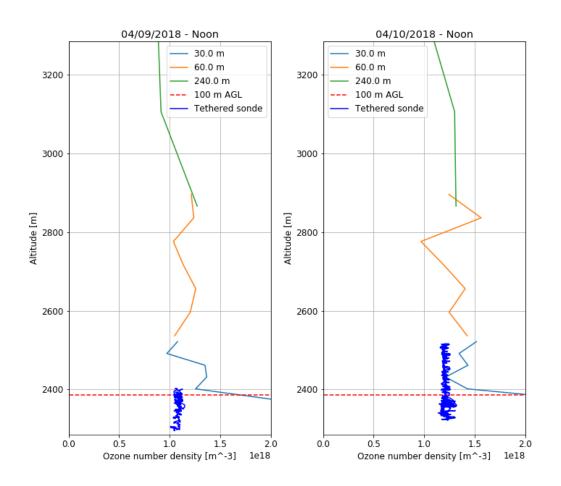




Very-near-range receiver: Tests

Validation

- A tethered balloon with an ozone sonde is currently being used to validate the measurements of the new very-near-range receiver.
- Only measurements on very calm conditions can be carried out with the tethered balloon.
- Overestimation in the ozone lidar retrieval is likely to be partially due to aerosols, as typically found in the ABL (Error term B).





Summary

Lidar automation

- The lidar is currently operating twice a day in autonomous mode.
- Some functions, like laser power monitoring and cloud coverage monitoring still have to be implemented.

Very-near-range receiver

- First tests on the receiver overlap were conducted, giving promising results.
- Issues with the analog channels need to be solved in order to cover the complete receiver range with good SNR.
- We are in the process of getting a UAV-borne ozone sonde. This would allow us to operate not only under very calm wind conditions.
- The range could be further lowered with postprocessing, by applying a correction factor based on the estimation of the differential overlap/gain factor.

Issues

- Due to the high dynamic range of the signal, analog and photocounting signals have to be used.
- The analog signals exhibit artifacts on the first bins. This artifacts were identified to be caused by transient recorder. Other analog transient recorder has to be used.